

NOTICE OF MEETING

CITY OF BRANSON



ADVISORY PARK BOARD

Committee Meeting – Tuesday, January 18, 2011 – 5:15 p.m.
Branson RecPlex – 1500 Branson Hills Parkway – Branson, MO

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order.
- 2) Approval of November 16, 2010 Park Board minutes.
- 3) New programs for 2011.
- 4) Lakeside Forest Wilderness area update.
- 5) Campground improvements.
- 6) New resident discount fee implementation.
- 7) FYI Items.
 - a. Parks & Recreation update.
- 8) Member's Reports.
- 9) Adjourn.

For more information please visit www.cityofbranson.org or contact:

Lisa Westfall, City Clerk, 417-337-8522

Jerry Adams, Public Information Director, 417-337-8548

Park Board Minutes
November 16, 2010

Members Present: Joe McDowell, Candy Sullinger, Jeff Justus, Florence Parnell, Mica Farley, Bob Simmons, Kenny Garrison, and Kent Vanderpool

Members Absent: Julie Wolfe and Gabe Miller

Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Marsha Fulton

Kent Vanderpool made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes from October 19, 2010. Florence Parnell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business:

1. The meeting was called to order by Candy Sullinger with the first item on the agenda being the financial report dated September 30, 2010. Cindy opened this item by bringing everyone's attention to the campgrounds revenue, pointing out that while this year's revenues were down so were their expenses. Overall, the bottom line operating expense at the campground shows only a \$3,000.00 difference from last year at this same time. Additionally, Cindy pointed out that expenses in Administration were up slightly from last year and this category things like payroll, printing, organizations dues, etc. Cindy closed this item by stating overall she felt the report looked very good. With no additional questions or comments the board moved on to the next item on the agenda.

2. Next item on the agenda was the Parnell Park update. Cindy stated that since the last meeting the resurfacing of the tennis court had been completed. However, due to cold temperatures during the project, the company had informed her that there was a chance that some of the cracks may reopen. However, the company assured her that they would return in the spring if this does happen and additionally there was a one year warranty on their work. Cindy then informed the board that she had received an email from avid tennis player Al Dygert expressing how good the court looked. In conclusion of this item, Cindy reminded the board that she had budgeted \$5,000.00 again next year in the 2011 budget for continued improvements to the park.

3. The next item on the agenda was the 2011 special events and tournament calendar. Candy opened this item by stating that she was amazed at the special events calendar. Cindy thanked her and pointed out that the items in red are new next year and that we are really at maximum capacity and it would be difficult to add additional events to the calendars. Cindy then handed out the economic impact statement for attendance 2010 tournaments and special events, which totaled nearly \$8 million. She explained that she takes the total attendance multiplied by the number of days of the event, multiplied by average spending per day to get the economic impact. Bob Simmons asked if knew the distance the tournament participants traveled? Cindy said that the majority of the participants come from the mid-west, but then added that we do see visitors come from outside the mid-west to attend the national tournaments like the girl's World Series. Cindy then took this opportunity to share with the board that Branson was being considered for another AAU tournament for boy's grades 4th through 6th in 2011 or 2012. Kent Vanderpool asked about securing additional gymnasiums for events like this. Cindy stated that it is problematic and as there just aren't enough gymnasiums available for these large events and reminded the board that Ozark was used some last year. Kent stated that it seems like there was money being left on the table and that there is such a need for more space and we cannot provide it. Florence Parnell then pointed out that she noticed there was only one tennis tournament schedule. Cindy explained that Springfield really held a monopoly on tennis due to the large amount of courts they have in addition to their

indoor facility. Bob Simmons remarked that Cindy does a fine job representing the tournaments and needs of the Parks Department to the City Council and finance committee and communicates it in such a manner that everyone looks favorable towards it. Candy then took this opportunity to ask what had happened with the recent fee increase at City Council. Cindy explained that the actual fee increase had not been read by City Council yet. She stated that at the last council meeting what was taken to the Board of Alderman was to remove the park user fees from the codebook. Cindy explained that she had been concerned for some time and some of the park fees were codified and some were not and that she would like to see overall consistency. She contacted City Clerk Lisa Westfall and together they researched how other cities handle park user fees and discovered there is no consistent method. Cindy explained that being codified meant that the fees are printed in the city code book, and since the majority of people do not go to the code book to find our fees, it was recommended to no longer codify the fees. Changes in park fees would still progress in the same manner that they do now, a recommendation would come to the Board of Alderman through the Park Board, the only difference would be that they would not appear in the code book. Cindy continued by saying that the actual fee increase is scheduled for the next council meeting. Bob Simmons added that in regards to the fee increase he thought that there may be some discussion, but that he didn't foresee any big concerns in regards to passing the increase.

4. The next item on the agenda was discussion about the December board meeting. Candy opened this item by asking what the board would like to do in regards to the December 21 board meeting? Cindy responded by saying in the past a decision was made to move the meeting up a week, but now that City Council meetings are on Tuesday evenings, that would conflict with the December 14 council meeting. Candy again questioned if the Board wanted to move the meeting to another day or cancel due to the busy holiday season? Jeff Justus made a motion to cancel the December meeting. Kent Vanderpool seconded the motion. All were in favor with the exception of Kenny Garrison who abstained from voting.

5. Next on the agenda was the parks and recreation update. Cindy asked if there were any questions, there were none. Cindy then commented on what a success last month's Halloween event had been.

Member's Report:

1. Florence Parnell shared that she had recently visited the dog park in Lee's Summit and that it was very nice and that there were a lot of dogs when she was there. She commented that they had a walking trail as well as agility items and water fountains for the dogs. She added that the only comment she heard was that the residents wish there restroom facilities.
2. Kent Vanderpool asked about the projects that the Boy Scouts are working on at the Owen homestead. Cindy shared the press release from the city that gave a brief overview as to what the Boy Scouts were working on as part of eagle scout projects. Cindy shared that the Scouts had completed other eagle scout projects with the Parks Department in the past and that she was looking forward to see what all they would accomplish.
3. Candy Sullinger then asked if there had been anything mentioned about Larry Wilson joining the park board? Cindy said she had confirmed with the Mayor that Larry attended the last meeting and Bob added that he had visited with Larry after the meeting and that had visited with the Mayor in regards to Larry being on the board.

Meeting adjourned 5:55 pm



October 6, 2010

December 29, 2010



October 6, 2010

December 29, 2010



October 6, 2010



December 29, 2010





October 6, 2010



December 29, 2010



October 6, 2010



December 29, 2010



October 6, 2010

December 29, 2010

Recreation Update (1/18/11)

Our annual "Breakfast with Santa" event was a big success. We had over 160 people attend and enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast before getting a chance to see Santa to reveal their holiday wishes. Children of all ages received a gift & a picture with Santa.

Park Supervisor Martie Dunn recently traveled to Kansas City for three days to attend the National Playground Safety Institute's Playground Inspector Course. This course offers comprehensive training on playground hazard identification and risk management methods. Two nationally known playground safety experts presented 15 hours of training, which includes an on-site playground visit, to test methods of entrapment, protrusions and entanglement.

Assistant Park's Director Preston Peper attended the United States Specialty Sports Association national convention in Florida on Nov 16-19. Also making the trip was Terra Heithaus, the convention and sports sales manager for the Branson Lakes Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. This national meeting offers an opportunity to market Branson as a tournament destination. Preston and Terra attended sessions and worked a Branson booth that let them make contact with state directors from all over the country in a variety of sports.

The RecPlex hosted its first ever Jamfest Cheer & Dance competition on Sun, Nov 14. Over 35 teams of girls ages 5 to high school attended the event from states throughout the mid-west. With an attendance of over 2,000 spectators, this was one of the largest events hosted at the RecPlex.

The "Shootin & Shoppin" MAYB Basketball Tournament was held on Sat., Nov 20 at the RecPlex. This is a new tournament and the first time we have held an event like this in November. Eight teams from Missouri and Arkansas competed.

The youth basketball league is underway. The coaches meeting was held on Nov 16 where teams were formed and practices scheduled. 74 teams from Branson and the area will be competing this year, up from 66 teams in 2010. In order to accommodate the large number of teams, the gym at first Baptist Church has been secured for Saturday games beginning January 9.

Our staff adopted a family for Christmas. After contacting the Division of Family Services, we adopted a family in need for the holidays. Staff collected money and purchased groceries, toys and clothing for the family of five.

The RecPlex once again collected food for CAM during the holidays. Staff delivered a "truck load" of food to CAM on December 22.

Park maintenance has been working at Lakeside Forest Wilderness Area chipping brush left by the Boy scouts to better define the trails. Staff has also been removing tree stumps and filling holes around the house from the many trees that have been uprooted over the years. Many thanks to the Boy Scouts for all their hard work and we are excited about the progress. A gate has once again been put in place to secure the park at night, and the old sign is being set to better identify the park. A new sign is being designed for the future.

The shower house at the campground recently had insulation installed to conserve energy after a new energy efficient heater and air conditioner were put in last summer. Plans are underway for improving

the camper pads at the campground to better accommodate customer needs. In 2011, campers will see the first phase of a multi-year plan to concrete most of the pads in the campground. This renovation will also mean that some sewer lines will be repositioned and added to accommodate the larger campers.

Plants are on order and others have been started in the greenhouse for 2011. We have seen a greater demand placed on the greenhouse in the last year as we make an effort to increase beautification of the city.

The winter sessions of adult basketball and adult volleyball have begun.

The popular youth basketball league played its first games last Saturday. Due to the increase in demand, we are playing games from 8 am to 8 pm at both the RecPlex and First Baptist Church.

Fun Facts from 2010

The Branson Waves Swim team participants swam 1,200 miles during practice this summer which equals 3 ½ times across the Gulf of Mexico.

This summer the RecPlex concession sold 6,430 nachos, 5,702 pretzels, 4,754 slushies and 6,625 hotdogs (if hotdogs were laid end-to-end it would equal the length of 10 football fields).

2,000 hours of youth baseball/softball games were played at the Branson RecPlex this summer, which equals about the same time as 800 St. Louis Cardinals' games **OR** the hours worked in one calendar year by a full time employee.

The Parks Department spent enough hours mowing this year to travel 3 times across the United States.

The Parks Department used 1,200 bags of field dry this summer, which weighs the same as 4 ½ elephants.

RecPlex members logged enough miles in the walking program to travel to the North Pole 3 times.

Parks Department hosted the 1st annual Branson Mtn. Man Triathlon. 75 participants traveled 1,750 miles during this event, which is enough to get from Branson to Acapulco, Mexico.

During the State Park free swim day, over 1,000 people were admitted and 1,170 pounds of food was collect for CA